CHARLTON COMICS

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HOT RODS and RACING CARS ... with ACTION

Clint Curtis and the Road Knights

1 "GRANDMA JOE"

2 "THE BLOWN MILL"

3 "THE LAST LESSON"

RACING AGAINST PROFESSIONAL SUPERSTOCK DRIVERS BEHIND THE WHEELS OF SPONSORED CARS, JOE ABELARDI IS AT A DISADVANTAGE... IF HE WRAPS UP HIS FORD FAIRLANE, HE'S NOT A PRO-FIT-FAT CAR DEALER WHO CAN WRITE A CHECK TO COVER THE LOSS! JOE'S GOT EVERY NICKEL HE OWNS IN THIS IRON.... HE DIDN'T PAY FOR IT IN MONEY, HE USED BLOOD TO PAY THE BILLS! SO... WHEN THE GOING GETS TIGHT OUT THERE.... GRANDMA JOE IS ALWAYS THE FIRST TO BACK OFF!
BACK OFF, GRANDMA JOE.... LET A REAL MAN COME THROUGH!
IT'S MULLER...HE WRECKS THAT PLYMOUTH IN EVERY RACE....
STARR MOTORS
71
GRANDMA JOE
.... THEN HE TURNS IT OVER TO THE DEALER WHO PAYS THE BILLS! HE HAS HIS MECHANICS AND THE SHEET-IRON BOYS FIX IT UP AGAIN!
NICHOLAS ALASCIA
IF I BUST ANYTHING, I GOTTA SKIP LUNCH FOR A MONTH TO GET IT FIXED!
VROOOM
STARR MOTORS PLYMOUTH
71
C-624
1

HOT RODS & RACING CARS Vol. 2, No. 102, June, 1970.

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NURSING HIS SWEET-RUNNING 396 CUBE ENGINE GRANDMA JOE SETTLES FOR SECOND PLACE MONEY...

I HAD THE PAZZAZZ TO PASS HIM... BUT MULLER WOULDN'T GIVE ME ROOM TO GET BY....HE'D PUT ME THROUGH THE FENCE!

GOOD THING YA BACKED OFF, CHICKEN! OTHERWISE, I'D *TOTAL YA OUT!*

MULLER, YOU'VE GOT A BIG, UGLY MOUTH! SHUT IT AND GET AWAY FROM ME!

NO YELLA DAWG IS GONNA PUT ME DOWN, ABELARD!!! SEE THIS?

I'M GOING TO *ENJOY* THIS, LOUDMOUTH!

LOOK OUT, JOE!

THUD

PUT IT TO HIM, JOE BABY!

A LITTLE LATER....

CONGRATULATIONS, ACE!

ARRRRGGGHH!

AND A FEW DAYS LATER, IN JOE'S GARAGE....

JOE, BABY, I DON'T GET IT! YOU PUT THIS MARVELOUS CAR TOGETHER! IT'S TERRIFIC ON THE TRACK.... AND YET YOU DON'T WIN WITH IT!

IT'S BECAUSE OF HOW GREAT IT IS I CAN'T WIN WITH IT! IT HURTS ME TO GET *A SCRATCH* ON IT.... I DON'T EVEN WANT TO GET IT DUSTY!

KITTEN? YOU'VE GOT THAT SCHEMING EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE AGAIN KITTEN? TELL ME, KITTEN....

KISS ME, JOE...

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, JOE! YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT RACING.... I'LL LET YOU RUN ONE MORE TIME! AFTER THAT, GIVE THE CAR AWAY, SELL IT TO HUNTZ MULLER, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO!

Y-YES, DEAR.

WELL? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE CAR LIKE THAT?

BECAUSE.... I WANT TO REMEMBER IT THIS WAY!

AFTER THIS RACE, IT WON'T LOOK THE SAME! WHEN MULLER THREATENS TO PUT ME THROUGH THE FENCE, *I'M NOT GONNA BACK OFF!*

RACE TIME AT MEMORIAL STADIUM AND JOE'S FAIRLANE IS BEAUTIFUL AS USUAL!

WHY DON'T YA WRAP IT IN CELLOPHANE, GRANDMA?

YOU STILL AROUND MULLER?

WHY, I OUGHTA.....

LEMME ALONE!

THE LINE UP.... THE OFFICIALS KEEP THEM IN A DOUBLE LINE, THEN THE STARTER LEAPS IN THE AIR AND WHIPS THE GREEN FLAG DOWN! THEY'RE OFF!

VROOOM

VROOOOM

CARL MOTORS DODGE

54

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

I WOULD'VE DUCKED DOWN AND CROSSED THE APRON TO GET CLEAR OF THEM AT OTHER TIMES....BUT NOW I DON'T CARE IF I DENT A FENDER OR NOT!

WHEW! JUST MISSED THEM BOTH!

VROOOM

THUNK

VROOM

RUNNIN' AN EASY FOURTH....I'LL TAKE CORRIGAN IN THE TURN! HAH! HE'S WAVIN' ME BACK.... BIG DEAL!

VROOOM

DROP BACK.... DON'T WRECK US BOTH!

I'M GOIN' THROUGH, CORRIGAN!

KRUNCH

NOW, JOE'S IN SECOND PLACE BEHIND MULLER! HE CAN TAKE MULLER, JOE KNOWS HE HAS A FASTER CAR! BUT THAT ISN'T HOW HE WANTS TO WIN!

ARE YA CRAZY? YA'LL FLIP ME OVER THE FENCE!

THUDD

DROP BACK, MULLER!

VROOOM

HE KNOWS WHAT I MEAN!

HE'S ADMITTIN' IT SO EVERYBODY AT THE TRACK CAN SEE.... HE'S BACK-IN' DOWN!

SO GRANDMA JOE WINS HIS FIRST RACE! IN A NOT-SO-NEW FAIRLANE....

OH, JOE, DARLING.... I KNEW YOU'D WIN! I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!

I'VE GOT TO TELL THAT CHICK SOME-THING!

VROOOOM

25

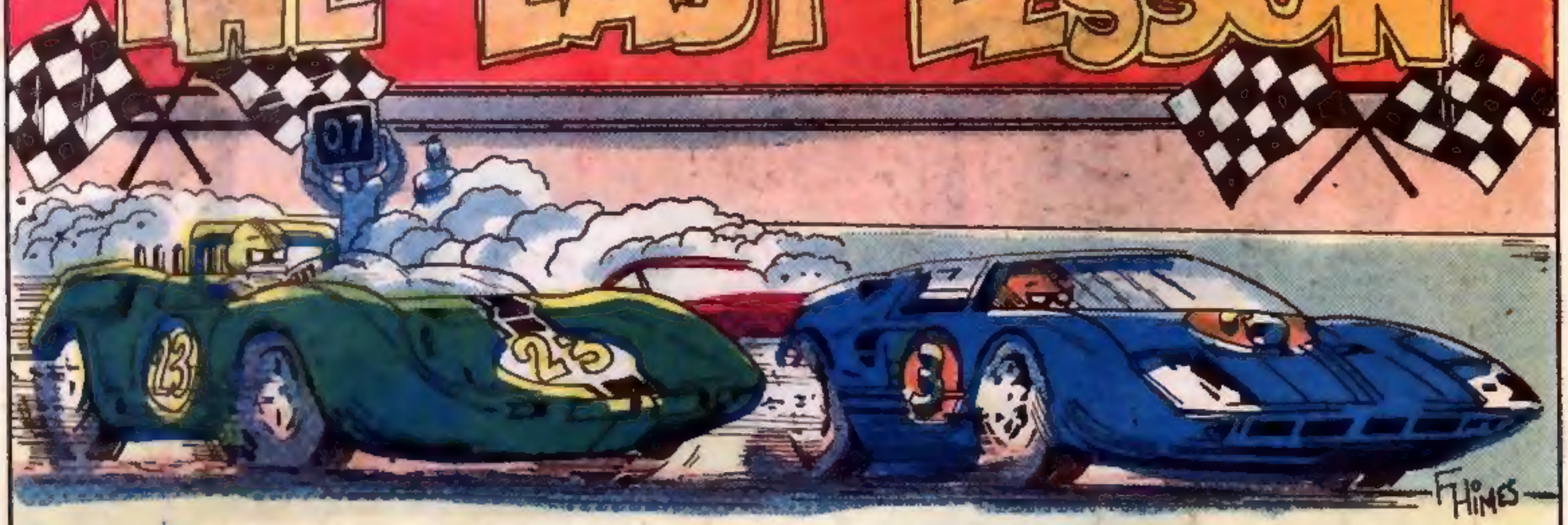
DARLING.... YOU CAN RACE AGAIN IF YOU WANT!

NEVER MIND THAT, CHICK! I *AM* GOIN' TO RACE AGAIN! *I* DECIDED!

YOU HADDA GO AN' GET GRANDMA JOE *MAD*, DIDN'T YA?

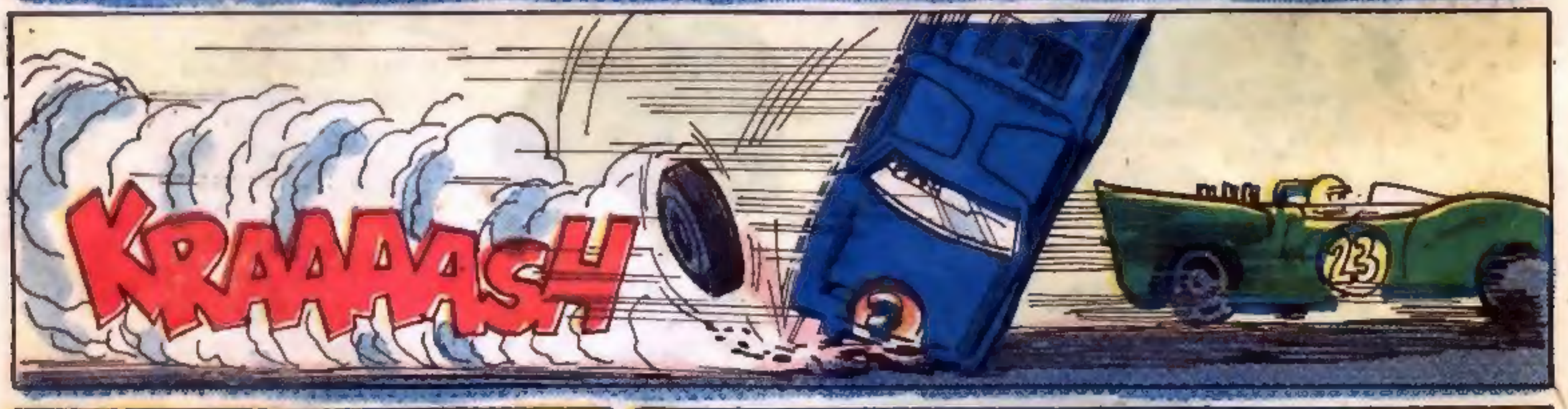
END

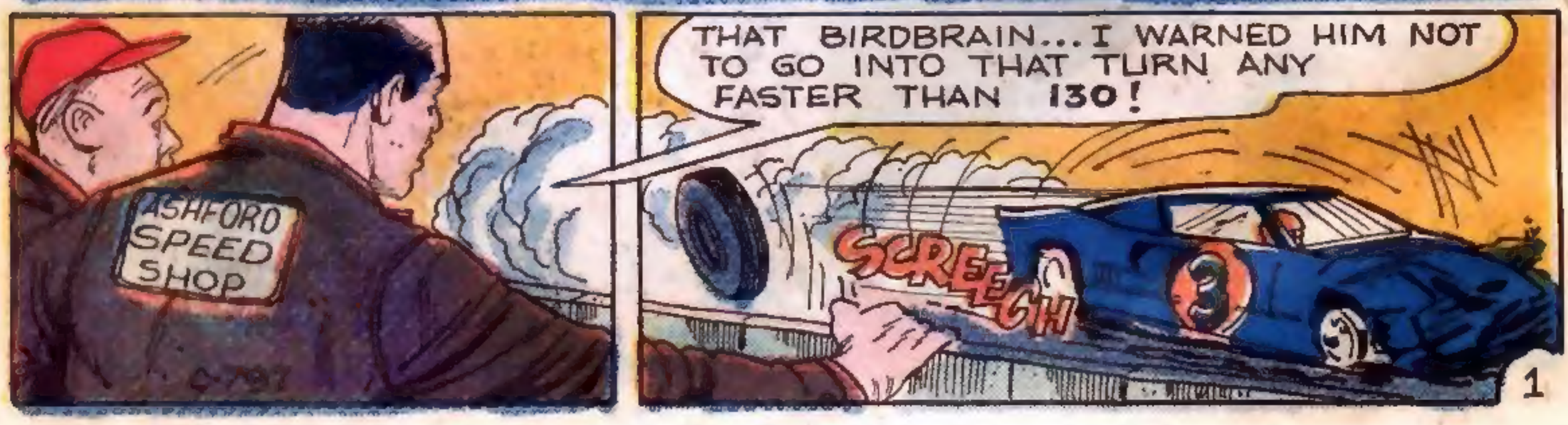
THE LAST LESSON



IN THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN SERIES, THE BIG 7 LITER CARS RACE AT INCREDIBLE SPEEDS...AND THE DRIVER WITH THE HEAVIEST FOOT WAS MAX COWDEN! DRIVING FOR A CALIFORNIA SPEED SHOP, COWDEN SET LAP RECORDS AT RIVERSIDE AND HE WAS HALF A LAP AHEAD OF THE CHAPARRAL CHEVY AND THE MACLAREN FORD WHEN HE WENT INTO THE TURN BREAKING DOWN ABOUT 155MPH!

MAX COWDEN'S 7 LITER FORD IS LAPPING THE SLOWER CARS NOW AS HE SCREAMS INTO THE JUNKYARD, SO-CALLED BECAUSE OF THE WRECKS THAT...OH ... OH!





600 YARDS FURTHER ON, THE SLEEK $40,000 MACHINE COMES TO REST!

YOU OKAY, MAX?

YEAH... BUT THE CAR ISN'T!

LOUSY TIRES, LOUSY BLACKTOP, NO TRACTION!

COWDEN

ASHFORD SPEED SHOP

THERE'S ENOUGH TRACTION FOR SANE DRIVERS, MAX! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THESE TURNS AT 160 MPH!

YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT OTHER DRIVERS WOULD TAG YOU AS CHICKEN IF YOU SLOWED DOWN FOR A TURN!

WELL, THEY'RE RIGHT, LEW.... FROM NOW ON....

.... I **AM** CHICKEN! I'LL NEVER WIN **ANOTHER RACE** FOR YOU!

BACK IN THE SHOP IN CALIFORNIA, MAX COWDEN HELPS LEW ASHFORD'S MECHANICS REPAIR THE EXPENSIVE RACE CAR...

WANTA DRIVE IT AT LAS VEGAS, MAX? IT OUGHTA BE READY BY THEN.

NO, LEW! IF IT'S OK WITH YOU, I'LL WORK IN THE PITS BUT I'M ALL THROUGH RACE DRIVIN'.

ASHFORD HAS TWO CARS READY FOR LAS VEGAS ...ONE WITH A SMALLER WEDGEHEAD ENGINE SLOWER THAN THE OTHER!

THE NUMBER ONE CAR IS PERFECT....BUT I THINK WE CAN GET PAZZAZZ OUT OF THE OTHER ONE!

I GOT HILL TO DRIVE NUMBER ONE, MAX. I'M STILL TRYIN' TO FIND SOMEONE TO BOOT THE OTHER ONE AROUND.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T, LEW. IT ISN'T FAST ENOUGH TO WIN ANYHOW.

LAS VEGAS

TAKE IT AROUND A FEW LAPS, MAX! IF IT ISN'T ANY BETTER, I'LL LOAD IT BACK ON THE TRUCK!

OK LEW...BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY TRACK RECORD!

HE'S NOT DRIVING THE WAY HE USED TO...OTHER DRIVERS PAUSE IN WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO WATCH THE ASHFORD CAR SCREAM PAST... BUT IT'S HITTING A LOWER NOTE. AND IT GOES INTO THE FIRST TURN AT 110 MPH!

LOOKS LIKE MAX **DID** LOSE HIS NERVE LIKE THEY SAID!

IT'S TIME HE DID... NOBODY COULD KEEP EVEN WITH HIM!

NOW, WITH THE MEMORY OF THAT SMASH-UP BURNED INTO HIS BRAIN, MAX COWDEN HOLDS THE CAR DOWN TO 170 MPH IN THE LONG STRAIGHT... HE PRUDENTLY BRAKES AHEAD OF THE CUT-OFF POINT GOING INTO THE SHARP BENDS..

VVVRRROOOMMM

95 MPH.... I'M RIGHT IN THE GROOVE!

GOT TO GO FASTER THROUGH THE S-TURNS ...GOT TO TEST THE SUSPENSION AT SPEED ....THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO FIND OUT IF IT'S STRONG ENOUGH FOR A RACE!

COWDEN

COWDEN'S FANTASTIC WITH A CAR! HOW HE HOLDS THAT CAR IN LINE I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

HE SAYS HE QUIT....IT'LL BE A SHAME IF HE DID.

SCREEEEECH

SLOWER, HUH, LEW?

I'M NOT COMPLAININ', VICK!

COWDEN KEEPS PUSHING THE CAR FASTER EACH LAP... BUT HE'S NOT GOING ALL OUT THE WAY HE ONCE HAD BEFORE HE LOST HIS NERVE.

LATER...

....AND SO IF YOU'LL JUST ENTER THE CAR AND RACE IT AS A BACK-UP FOR THE NUMBER ONE CAR, I'LL BE GRATEFUL, MAX!

I SEE. YOU MEAN RUN IT SLOW....BACK IN THE PACK... SO IF HILL HAS TROUBLE WITH OUR GOOD CAR HE CAN SWITCH OVER AND DRIVE THE BACK UP CAR?

OKAY, LEW... I CAN DO THAT MUCH, I GUESS!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

QUALIFYING 9 MILES SLOWER THAN AL HILL IN THE NO.1 RACER, MAX COWDEN IS CONTENT BACK IN THE PACK! WHEN THEY GET THE GREEN FLAG, HE HOLDS HIS POSITION...RUNNING ABOUT 18TH IN THE FIELD OF 27 CARS!

NO SWEAT KEEPIN' UP WITH THESE CATS!

THAT JOKER'S EVEN WORSE OFF THAN I AM! WHAT ARE THEY DOIN' IN A RACE IF THEY'RE GONNA DRAG THEIR FEET?

COWDE

HEY, BOSS, I THOUGHT MAX SAID HE'D JUST KEEP THE CAR MOVIN' SO IF AL HILL NEEDED A CAR HE'D SWITCH! MAX IS SIXTH NOW!

YEAH, I KNOW. MAX'S IDEA OF RUNNIN' SLOW AIN'T EXACTLY SLOW!

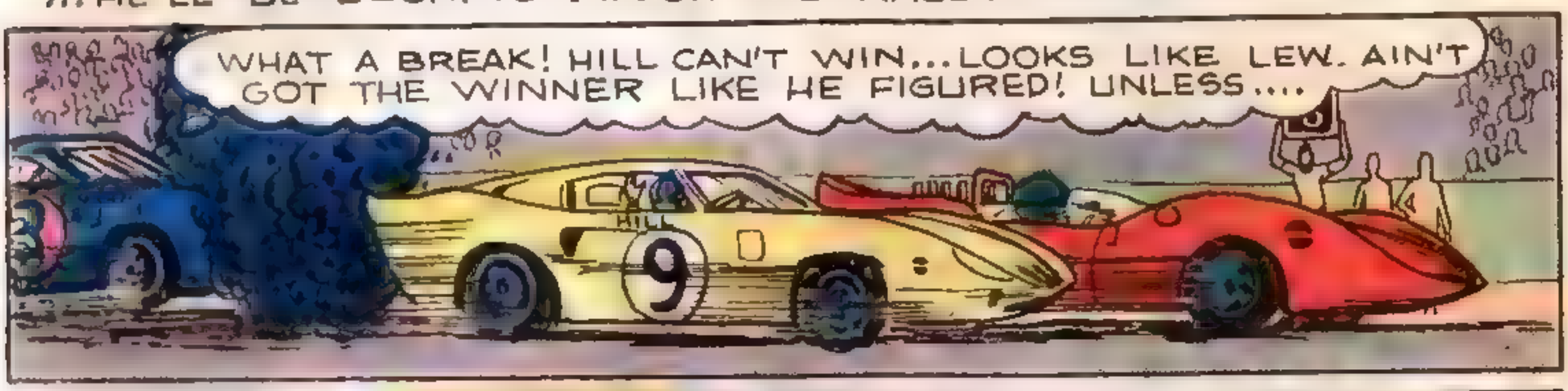
IN THE 18TH LAP, A CHAPARRAL TANGLES WITH A BRITISH LOTUS... THAT MOVES MAX COWDEN UP TO FOURTH! AND THE CAR IN THIRD IS LOSING POWER, SO MAX MOVES TO THIRD BEHIND AL HILL AND JUAN DELOMAS!

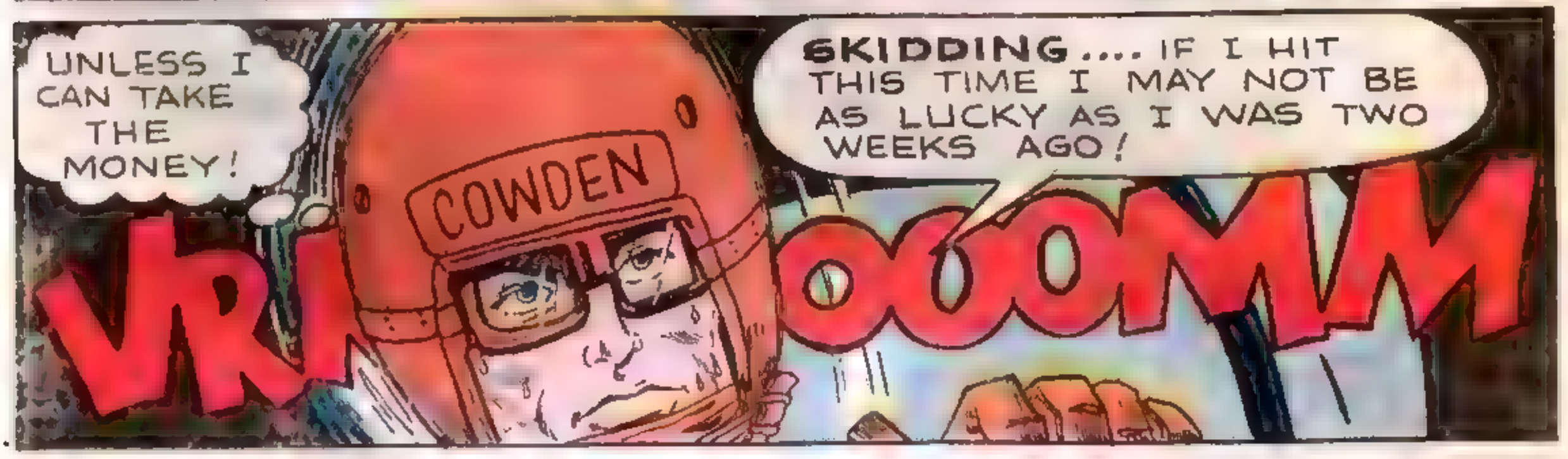
UH UH....I'M NOT GETTIN' SUCKED INTO A BIG BANZAI CHARGE AT THOSE TWO! LET AL HILL TAKE THE WINNER'S SHARE...I'M CONTENT WITH A THIRD PLACE FINISH!

STP

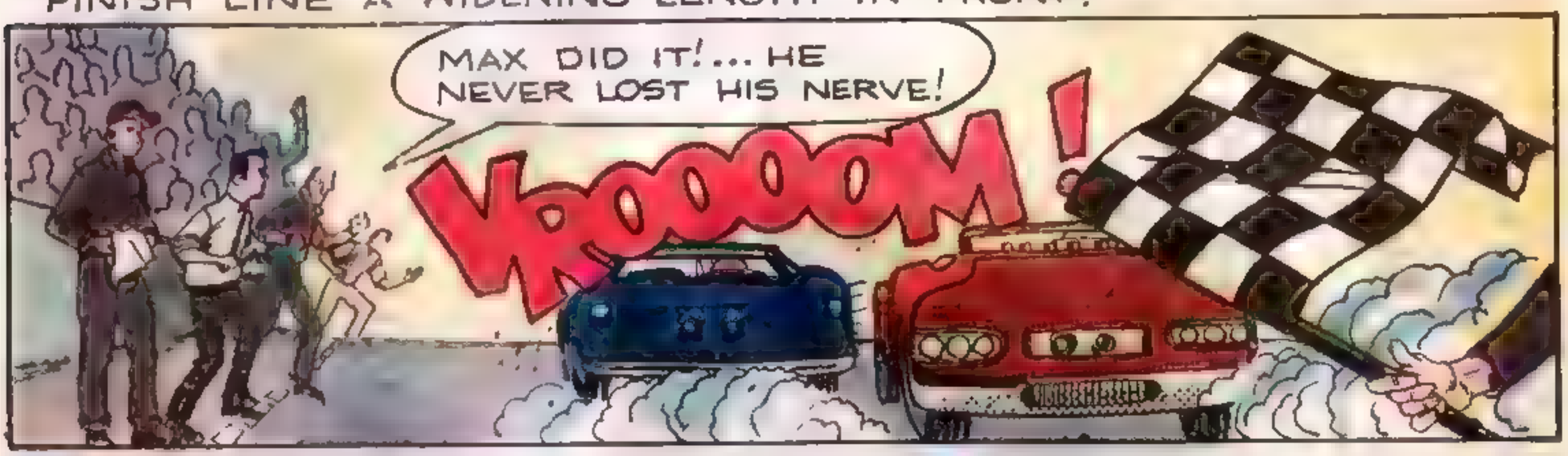
KRAAASH

BUT RACING LUCK'S AGAINST HILL.... IN THE BACKSTRETCH, BLACK SMOKE BELCHES FROM HILL'S EXHAUST... HE BLEW AN OIL RING ...HE'LL BE LUCKY TO FINISH THE RACE.

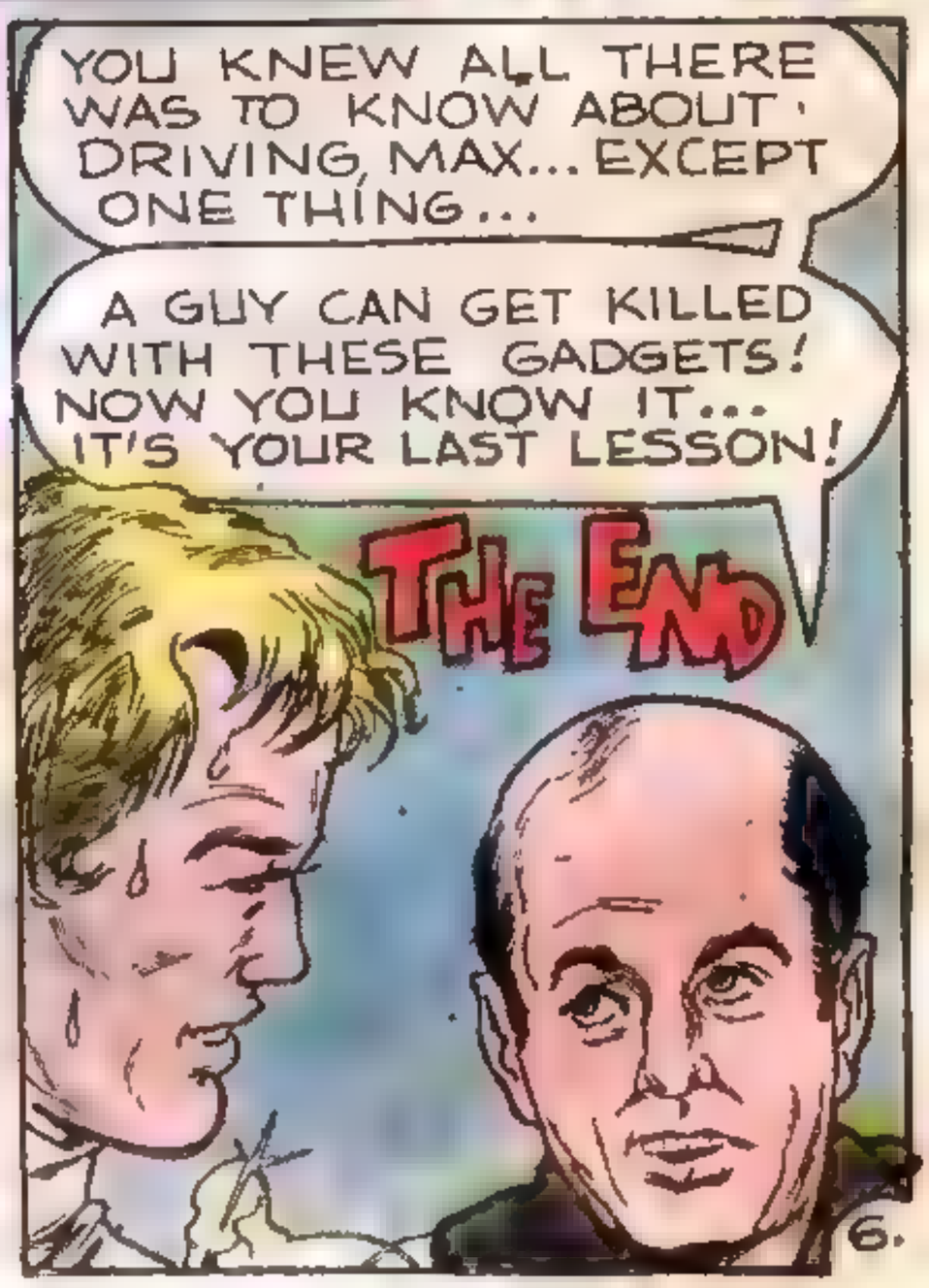




COWDEN HURTLES INTO THE LAST TURN AT FANTASTIC SPEED...RIPS PAST THE LEADER AND COMES INTO THE STRAIGHTAWAY TO THE FINISH LINE A WIDENING LENGTH IN FRONT!



NICE GOIN', MAX! LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHIN'... I FIGURED YOU TO WIN RIGHT FROM THE START!
IF I'D KNOWN THAT, I NEVER WOULD'VE DRIVEN THE CAR
ASHES


YOU KNEW ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT DRIVING, MAX... EXCEPT ONE THING...
A GUY CAN GET KILLED WITH THESE GADGETS! NOW YOU KNOW IT... IT'S YOUR LAST LESSON!
THE END

LOGAN SWINGS WIDE TO TAKE THE RIDE ON THE OUTSIDE GROOVE THAT HAS PROVEN TO BE THE FASTEST, AS CLINT IS FORCED TO GO LOW...

MAN, YOU GOTTA FIGHT THE WHEEL EVERY SECOND...

THIS TIME, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT... CLINT SEEMS TO GET THE SUPERIOR TRACTION IN THE LOWER GROOVE AND BEATS LOGAN THROUGH THE TURN...

CLINT OUT ACCELERATES LOGAN AND WIDENS THE GAP DOWN THE BACK-STRETCH!

CLINT SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND THE RIGHT GROOVE AS HE CONTINUES TO PULL AWAY...

WITH 3 LAPS TO GO, CLINT GAINS A QUARTER LAP LEAD...

THE RACE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL CLINT'S WHEN SUDDENLY A BELCH OF TELL-TALE WHITE SMOKE PUFFS FROM THE STACKS AS CLINT BACKS OFF BEFORE RUNNING THE TURN...

TROUBLE!

THE OIL PRESSURE GAUGE PLUMMETS TO ZERO AND CLINT KNOWS THE SAD STORY...

I'VE LUNCHED THE MILL! I'M **THROUGH!**

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

EVERY CAR STILL RUNNING PASSES CLINT AS HE WHEELS HIS DISABLED RACER TO THE PITS WITH A D.N.F.* FOR HIS DAY'S WORK...

*D.N.F. - DID NOT FINISH.

MOMENTS LATER, DIRK LOGAN WINS EASILY...

CLINT AND ALEX VIEW THE CRACKED BLOCK WITH SIMILAR EMOTIONS...

IT THREW A ROD, WE NEED A NEW MILL...

YEAH, A SIMPLE PROBLEM IF YOU HAVE A THOUSAND BEANS, ONLY THING IS WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A HUNDRED BETWEEN US!

WHEN YOU'RE RACING ON A BUDGET LIKE WE ARE, MOMENTS LIKE THIS ARE DISASTROUS...

I'M AFRAID THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL, FRIEND, WE'RE THROUGH UNTIL WE CAN RAISE SOME BREAD...

UH, PARDON ME FOR INTRUDING, BUT I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION... PERHAPS I CAN HELP... HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN $1,000 FOR JUST ONE DAY'S WORK?

WOW! ARE YOU KIDDING, MA'AM, JUST LEAD ME TO IT...

END OF PART ONE...

CLINT CURTIS

THE BLOWN MILL

PART 2

THE DEAL WAS CUT AND DRIED, A PIECE OF CAKE, THE EASIEST $1,000 CLINT EVER MADE, OR SO IT SEEMED... ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS DRIVE MONA MONROE'S FABULOUS NEW DE TOMASSO MANGUSTA TO AND FROM A PICK-UP SPOT ON THE BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS... MONA SAID THAT SHE WAS IN GOVERNMENT WORK AND THAT SHE WAS PICKING UP IMPORTANT PAPERS FROM THE LIGHT PLANE . NOW, ALL CLINT HAD TO DO WAS DRIVE 200 MILES TO HER ESTATE... IT REALLY SEEMED LIKE EASY MONEY, BUT WAS IT?

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, MISS MONROE?

OF COURSE, BUT DON'T STAND THERE GAWKING LIKE A FOOL! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, FAST!

OKAY, LET'S ROCK, BUT WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH?

SOMEONE'S COMING!

I HAD HOPED THIS MISSION COULD BE KEPT SECRET, BUT SOMEHOW ***THEY*** FOUND OUT... DRIVE AS SWIFTLY AS YOU CAN, THEY'RE ***COMMUNISTS*** AND ***KILLERS***!

TO THE FLOORBOARD, MA'AM... COMMIES, ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS JOB IS BEGINNING TO LOOK NOT SO EASY...

VROOOM

VA-ROOOM

C-961 JACK KELLER

THESE PAPERS CAN'T FALL INTO THEIR HANDS! DRIVE FASTER!

WE'RE TOPPIN' 150 NOW!

VOOM

I'M RUNNING FLAT OUT AND THEY'RE STICKIN' LIKE EPOXY... IN FACT, I THINK THEY'RE GAINING!

THAT MUST BE A HOPPED-UP 427... WE CAN'T RUN 'EM HERE ON THE FLATS... I'D BETTER TRY TO OUT DRIVE THEM ON A BACK ROAD!

HANG ON! THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LIT-TLE ROUGH!

MAN, THIS KIND OF TREATMENT IS MURDER ON THE SUSPENSION!

WHUMP

IT'S NOT DOIN' THAT TORINO ANY GOOD EITHER!

CRUNCH

LOOK! I WANT YOU TO **LOSE** THEM, NOT BREAK UP **MY CAR**... I'M PAYING YOU TO BE A **GOOD** DRIVER, SO, HOW ABOUT SHOWING ME SOME **SKILL!**

I'M TRYIN', YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!

SCREEEE

CLINT'S QUICK MANUEVER CATCHES THE TORINO'S DRIVER OFF GUARD... UNABLE TO MAKE THE HARD LEFT TURN, HE SLAMS ON THE BINDERS!

SKREEEE

THAT GAVE US SOME BREATHING ROOM... MAYBE WE CAN SHAKE 'EM!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE TORINO...

C'MON, GET GOIN'!

I'M TRYING TO, BUT THAT SPIN STALLED THE MOTOR!

C'MON, MOVE IT, MAN, WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM!

I GREW UP IN THIS TERRITORY... I KNOW IT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND... WE'RE TAKIN' A SHORT CUT!

HA! NOW WE'VE GOT THEM... I'M BLOCKIN' THE ROAD!

BRUM

SCREEEE

THEY'RE USING THEIR CAR AS A ***BARRICADE!*** I'VE GOT TO STOP!

OH NO YOU DON'T!

FORCED TO GO AHEAD, CLINT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CLIMB THE WALLS!

LADY! LIFT YOUR FOOT, BEFORE YOU KILL BOTH OF US! PLEASE!

VROOOOM

HE'S A FANTASTIC DRIVER! THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!

NOT YET!

I'VE GOT A BEAD ON HIS TIRE!

POW

SCREEEE!

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH ARRIVES 'BITTER AND **FAST!**

WE'RE FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, AS YOU WELL KNOW, MONA... THOUGHT YOU COULD BRING IN MORE PHONEY U.S. MONEY FROM YOUR COUNTERFEITING PLANT IN MEXICO, DID YOU? THAT'S WHY YOU HIRED YOURSELF A RACE CAR DRIVER, TO OUTRUN US...

WHA-? T-MEN!

WELL, IT DIDN'T WORK, MONA... AND NOW, WE'RE GOIN' TO PUT YOU AWAY FOR A LONG TIME... AS FOR YOU, CURTIS, WE BELIEVE YOU WERE AN INNOCENT DUPE... YOU'LL ALSO FIND OUT THAT $1,000 IN BILLS YOU HAVE IS PHONEY... YOU'VE BEEN HAD, BOY...

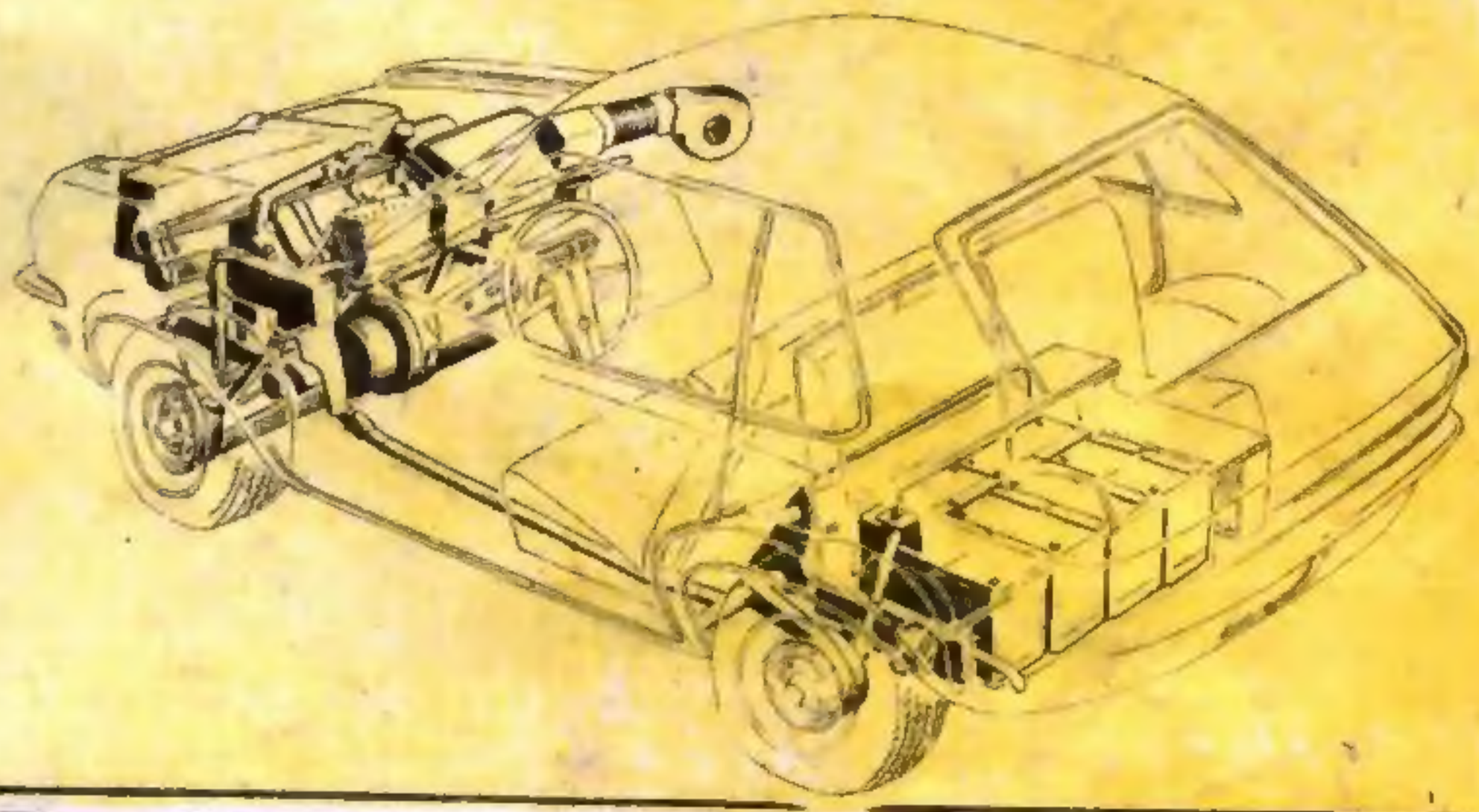
FAST MONEY, NUTS! FAST TROUBLE, THAT'S WHAT I GOT...

the end

GM REALLY HAS A COMPACT IN THE XP-883...THEY CLAIM IT WILL SEAT FOUR...THE DRIVER AND AN ADULT PASSENGER IN FRONT WITH TWO MINI-PEOPLE (KIDS) IN THE BACK! WHEN THE KIDS AREN'T AROUND THE BACK SEAT FOLDS DOWN TO PROVIDE AN 84 INCH CARGO SPACE ACCESSIBLE FROM THE REAR VIA A DOOR IN THE BACK!

GM'S GASOLINE-ELECTRIC HYBRID CAR

THEY MAKE IT GO WITH TWO RUBBER BANDS AND A...: CHECK THAT! POWER IS SUPPLIED BY A TWO CYLINDER OPPOSED WATER COOLED ENGINE WITH 35 TINY CUBES DISPLACEMENT WHICH DRIVES AN ALTERNATOR WHICH RECHARGES THE BATTERIES WHICH DRIVE A D-C SERIES-WOUND ELECTRIC MOTOR! SIMPLE, AIN'T IT?



THIS LITTLE JEWEL HAS A 68 INCH WHEELBASE WITH AN OVERALL LENGTH OF 122.2 INCHES. IT IS WIDE, 57 INCHES ACROSS, AND LESS THAN 4 FEET HIGH. ALSO, IT'S FRONT WHEEL DRIVE AND HAS EXCELLENT TRACTION!

HOT RODS and RACING CARS ... with Clint Curtis and the Road Knights

GRAND PRIX

WORLD OF WHEELS

DRAG N' WHEELS

FEATURING Scott Jackson

CHARLTON COMICS

FLAGS DOWN for the WINNERS